(b) and (c) A Committee to deliberate and recommend creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Management under the chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, former Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport was set up. The draft National Road Safety Policy prepared by this Department was also referred to this Committee alongwith the inputs received from various forums for its consideration. The Committee has submitted its report, *inter-alia*, recommending creation of a National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board through an Act of Parliament and also submitted the modified draft National Road Safety Policy which has to be implemented through the said Board. The inter-Ministerial consultation in this regard is progressing.

Safeguarding interests of labourers

†*336. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector companies are also the members of JBCCI set up for coal industry;

(b) whether decision taken in JBCCI are also applicable to these companies; and

(c) if not, the measures being taken by Government to safeguard the interests of labourers of these private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. Private Coal Companies have not agreed to be associated with the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI-VIII).

(b) No, Sir, Since the decisions to be taken in JBCCI-VIII are to be implemented by the signatory companies, these would not be applicable to private sector companies, who are not participating in the negotiations of JBCCI-VIII.

(c) As far as private sector companies are concerned, the wage settlement etc., be it bipartite or tripartite, are signed when the parties agree to sign the settlement. There is no provision to force any party to sign the settlement. However, if the demands placed before the employer are not accepted by him, the aggrieved union can always raise an industrial dispute before the conciliation machinery. If the dispute is not settled, the matter is referred to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. The interests of labourers in private sector companies are safeguarded in accordance with provisions of the Minimum Wages Act. Sufficient safeguards have been provided under the above Act and relevant Rules with respect to the wages, service conditions, provident fund, health and other social security measures. Enforcement of the above Act and Rules is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments in their jurisdiction.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.